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02 Rec'd PCT/PTO 15 MAR 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

BEDDUS et al

Atty. Ref.: 36-1431

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/GB99/03347**

International Filing Date: **8 October 1999**

Filed: **March 15, 2001**

Examiner:

For: **PROCESSING PLATFORM**

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March 15, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3. (Amended) A platform according to claim 1, further comprising a resource broker and in which at least some communication between the resource locators is mediated by the resource broker.

5. (Amended) A platform according to claim 3, in which the resource broker includes:

a data interface arranged to receive capability data and interface data from respective resource locators, and a registry arranged to store the said capability data and interface data.